

CIVIL WAR THREAT IN ITALY

Communist Leader Defies The Premier Spreading Wave Of Disturbances

Rome, Nov. 18. Bitter Leftist reaction to Premier Alcide de Gasperi's speech against the political violence sweeping Italy today brought a veiled threat of revolution from the Communist boss, Palmiro Togliatti, and denunciation of the Government programme as a "struggle to reconquer the world for Christ."

There was a slight diminution in violence which continued through the 14th day of what the Communist Party labelled openly as "the coalition of popular groups everywhere against the danger of a Fascist rebirth."

But general strikes struck Sardinia and the Puglia region, scene of the bloodiest outbreak of the violence campaign, where columns of motorised police and Carabinieri patrolled the entire province.

The Communist organ reported de Gasperi's speech with the heading: "Anti-American de Gasperi resumes curses of Goebbel's and Luft Wing Soviets called it a "declaration or counter-declaration of war."

"The Master Road"

Togliatti spoke again last night to a secret meeting of the Milan Communist Party at

THE GEN. FROM MOSCOW

London, Nov. 18. Radio Moscow predicted to-day that the United Nations would collapse like the old League of Nations if it "established a system whereby decisions are taken on a majority voting."

The broadest solid solution of the present differences in the United Nations depends not on the majority vote principle but on the "true relation of the forces which exist in the international arena."—United Press.

de Gasperi had addressed a meeting in Naples. The Communist Party organ reported Togliatti had "warned against the danger of abstract investigations into future prospects deriving from the master road of Marxism."

The Moscow-trained leader of the greatest Communist Party outside Russia told the Milan party (this newspaper said) that the question could be put in the following terms: "If we win the elections our prospects will be peaceful, otherwise we will evidently pass to revolutionary action."

"This method of putting the question is absolutely abstract. In all senses and does not take into consideration the general development of our action."

Disturbances

In the Puglia region, the towns of Andria, Minervino, Barletta and Trani are under heavy police guard. Police at road blocks maintain checks on all persons entering and leaving towns.

Disastrous Fire In Dept. Store

Wellington, N.Z., Nov. 18. At least 20 persons perished today when Ballantyne's Ltd., a department store in Christchurch, was gutted by fire at the height of the shopping rush hour. Assistants and customers were trapped on the upper floors of the four-storey store which is Christchurch's biggest and most exclusive shop.

The cause of the fire is not known. It is believed to have originated in the store's kitchen and within 15 minutes the four-story building was ablaze.

Patrons and employees ran screaming from the building. Some leaped from windows and were badly injured. Others fell back into the flames.

"No Room"

Mrs. Pandit said that Indian leaders had long held the view that "so long as Indians are regarded as an inferior race in India origin in South Africa is a humiliation to India and indeed to the whole of Asia."

Twelve were roisted when rushed into the lift, which got jammed between floors due to a power failure.

The Australian Broadcasting System in Sydney reported 20 bodies were identified and more are expected to be found in the ruins.—United Press.

CAUSTIC COMMENT

New York, Nov. 18. The "N.Y. Herald Tribune" commenting editorially on reports of Chinese criticism of Secretary of State Marshall's recommended aid to China, says:

"What stands in the way of large-scale aid to Nan-

"Victim Of Blackmail" By The U.S.

Milan, Nov. 17. Describing the situation in Italy as "exceptionally grave," Signor Palmiro Togliatti, the Italian Communist Party leader, declared here that the Italian Government had been the victim of "Blackmail" by the United States State Department.

Signor Togliatti was addressing the Congress of the Milan Communist Federation.

He said that the recent developments in Italy were not isolated facts but signs of the deep changes which had taken place in the nation's social structure.

Responsibility for the situation fell on the capitalists and on the present Government headed by Signor Alcide de Gasperi which was favouring him, he added.

The Government's mistake,

Signor Togliatti said, was that it had not known how to disengage Italy from the United States aid policy, thus becoming a victim of "blackmail" by the United States State Department.

Economic expansion by the United States was choking free economic intercourse between nations, he said.

This "workers of Italy" would prevent Fascism from staging a comeback, Signor Togliatti declared.

The conciliatory attitude of the Government, he declared, towards United States aid would inevitably collide with the policy of the Soviet Union, which entered the war to support national independence.—Reuter.

Another Post For Soong

Nanking, Nov. 18. The Executive Yuan today appointed Dr. T. V. Soong as Commander of the Military Control Zone in Kwangtung.

Dr. Soong is Governor of Kwangtung and concurrently Director of the President's Canton Headquarters.—Central News.

Threat To Life Of Boy-King?

Zurich, Nov. 18. King Phumiphon of Siam learned by radio last night that a man has been reported to be en route from Bangkok to murder him. The schoolboy King said today that he had not been officially informed by the Swiss authorities of the plot against his life but one of his secretaries said cantonal police are now guarding the King's villa here.

On the other hand, the police deny that precautions have been taken and disclaim any knowledge of the matter.

A spokesman for the King said today that the police telephoned a warning to the King last night.

Members of the King's entourage ridiculed the story and said the Swiss Government had actually received the would-be assassin last year without being aware of his alleged interest.

They said the reputed assassin was actually Prince Pensul, who was expected to arrive in Geneva last night where the King had gone to receive him. The Prince did not arrive on schedule, however, and has not appeared yet.—United Press.

Over A Cliff?

Singapore, Nov. 18. The plot to kill the 20-year-old King, as alleged by the Bangkok City Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Luang Kach Gongram, yesterday — was "to push him

Mrs. Pandit Warns Britain

Lake Success, Nov. 17. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit of India today warned Britain that "further deterioration in our relations with South Africa" might cause India to break away from the Commonwealth and have other implications even wider than those affecting the British community of nations.

Her warning was delivered directly to Hector McNeil of the United Kingdom, who sat across the conference room from her, as the United Nations Political Committee neared the end of its debate on India's complaint of alleged South African discrimination against the Indians in the Union.

Consequences

Mrs. Pandit said, "Surely Mr. McNeil realized that further deterioration of our relations with South Africa may have most significant consequences, not only on our relations with the British Commonwealth but in a much wider field."

Mrs. Pandit charged that "economic and residential segregation of persons of Indian origin in South Africa is a humiliation to India and indeed to the whole of Asia."

"No Room"

Mrs. Pandit said that Indian leaders had long held the view that "so long as Indians are regarded as an inferior race in India origin in South Africa is a humiliation to India and indeed to the whole of Asia."

Incident To Be Discussed

Lady Chan Chak, in her capacity as Chairman of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Chinese

Women's Association, last night issued invitations to women's organizations and leading women in Hong Kong to a tea party in the roof garden of the Hong Kong Hotel at 4.30 p.m. today, to discuss the incident which occurred outside the Hong Kong Hotel on Sunday night, resulting in the wrong arrest of some Chinese nurses.

"Russia Preparing For War"

Washington, Nov. 18. Representative Everett M. Dirksen today declared that Russia was feverishly preparing for war.

The Illinois Republican said the "cold war" between the United States and Russia could easily lead to war unless the United States bolstered Germany against the spread of Communism.

The Dirksen speech said Germany was the key to Europe and must not be abandoned lest Russia dominate the entire Continent.

He said already a "steady and unrelaxed business of preparing for war goes steadily forward in the Soviet Union." He added the USSR was producing tanks, guided missiles and tactical jet planes at an alarming rate.

"In many quarters, one can secure an even money wager that war is in the offing," he said.

Rep. Dirksen, who is chairman of the special Joint Congressional Armed Services Appropriations Committee which recently toured Europe, said that the United States could choose to abandon Europe, and particularly Germany, to the Soviet Union, but "if we do let's remember we are playing for keeps."

He said in that case it would not be "henceforth Stalin will write the ticket and we shall do business with European countries on his basis." He said "his would imperil Western civilization and mean regimentation for us."

United Press.

"The writer declared: "The unceasing puritanical cont. with which the treaty is saturated, and in which the American Imperialists are such past masters, does not alter the essence of the case; and the essence is that the Nanking treaty represents a further extension of American interference in China's domestic affairs."

The article said the programme did not imply "that the position of American imperialism has been strengthened."

"On the contrary it indirectly confirms that the policy of the American Government has failed, and the American expansionists—like their agents in the Chinese reactionary camp—have nothing to show for their oil," Reuter.

ALEX STRIKE

Alexandria, Nov. 17. The movement of cotton in Alexandria harbour was paralysed yesterday when 3,000 cotton porters went on strike demanding a 100 per cent. cost of living allowance instead of the present 50 per cent.

Reuter.

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